

[Translation]

**Rail Link between Sahjanwa and
Doharighat**

*597. SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a scheme to link Sahjanwa Station on Gorakhpur-Lucknow section of North Eastern Railway with Doharighat Station by rail is under consideration;

(b) whether the survey work has been completed; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in implementing this scheme ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) A survey for construction of a new line from Sahjanwa to Doharighat had been carried out in 1977.

(c) Severe constraint of resources and heavy commitments already in hand, have made it difficult to take up this work.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether sufficient funds would be allotted for this section out of the Seventh Plan allocation for the Railways ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : This scheme has not been included in the Seventh Plan.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Is any other scheme, such as Gorakhpur Chitauni and Gorakhpur Gonda loop line, being taken up for converting this metre gauge line into broad gauge ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I require notice for it. We shall sympathetically

consider the suggestion of the Hon. Member.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next Question. Question No. 598—Shri Digvijay Sinh. Again, Railways.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Am I going to receive a medal, Sir ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you fulfil Members' demands all will give to you.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA Then : the awards will have no value.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Q. No. 598. Mr. Digvijay Sinh.

**Loss of Revenue due to Ticketless
Travel**

*598. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH. : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the estimated loss of revenue to all Indian Railways on account of ticketless travel during the last one year;

(b) how many persons were sent to jail on conviction during the period; and

(c) whether Government propose to give incentives to those who apprehend ticketless travellers, be they Railway employees or others ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) This information is not maintained.

(b) 1.21 lakhs persons were sent to jail during the year 1984.

(c) Incentives in the shape of cash awards and commendation certificates are given to the Railway staff, who show good results and devotion to duty in the field of ticket checking. No such incentive scheme

is under consideration at present for persons other than Railway staff.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask a question to understand more your policy. The popular belief is this, that if three leakages are plugged, we could carry out three programmes. The three leakages are pilferage of goods in transportation, under invoicing of goods while booking and ticketless travel. If these three leakages are plugged we could carry out three programmes, namely, reparation work, conversion from metre gauge to broad gauge and laying of new lines. As a policy, what does the Government plan to do to plug these three leakages ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, all possible efforts are being made in the three directions mentioned by the Hon. Member. This specific question pertains to ticketless travel; there are random surprise checks and ambush checks carried out from time to time and this has yielded results. We are also trying to tighten the law so as to make the penalty more stringent. At present the penalty is Rs. 500 fine and 3 months' imprisonment. There is a proposed amendment on the anvil which is under active consideration of raising penalty amount to Rs. 1,000 and jail term to 6 months.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH : Sir, the Hon. Minister has said that 1.21 lakh people have been apprehended or convicted. I would like to know from him what percentage does it work out taking into account the total passenger traffic in the course of the year. To what fraction or percentage does it work out?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I am sure the Hon. Member is a better mathematician than I am. Sir, eleven million passengers travel in the Indian Railways every day. I am afraid I will have to make a calculation of this. I am sure the Hon. Member would help me in this. This is a very small fraction of the total number of passengers travelling daily.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether it has come to his notice that the conductors in some first-class railway compartments allow passengers by taking some money to travel in the first class

or by taking some money allow those with second-class ticket thereby causing loss of revenues to the Railways. When the surprise checks were conducted how many such have come to his notice ? How many such surprise checks were conducted during the last year ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : In such cases, against those found guilty action is taken. Action is taken against the erring staff and this policy is continued more vigorously.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, I specifically asked him how many such cases have come to his notice.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : According to the last survey that was undertaken, the total number of passengers checked was 89,24,000 of which 46,400 were found ticketless, 18,300 with unbooked luggage and 17,000 non-penalty cases. This works out to 0.93% of the total number of passengers checked.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : The point is : how many of those ticket collectors have been found guilty of this kind of malpractice especially in the first-class and air-conditioned coaches ? There the spare space is not much and these people are smuggled in and they are made to lie down either on the way or on the benches kept by the side of the toilets. It causes a lot of inconvenience. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he would take note of this in order to see that ticket collectors are chattered and also a careful watch is kept on them so that they may not indulge in such malpractices.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : They will be subjected to a very very careful watch.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Apart from the common people, the railway employees sometimes travel in the first-class coaches without valid passes or tickets. The Railway employees going upto Nasik and Manmad in Punjab Mail starting at 4.30 PM from Bombay travel in Second Class ACC Sleeper coaches but they might possess either first-class or second-class passes. In this way they are travelling without proper ticket. Will the Hon. Minister kindly state how many Railway

employees have been punished for travelling in the Second-Class ACC Sleeper coaches without proper ticket or passes during the last one year ?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : You will appreciate that we run 11,000 trains everyday. It is very difficult to answer this question particularly pertaining to this train. I have already said that whenever such cases are brought to our notice, very strict action will be taken.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Generally members feel that such kind of practice is taking place. The Minister may take note of it.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I understand the general feelings of the Hon. Members. Therefore, I answered them in a general way.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon. Minister to the following. To increase the revenue of Indian Railways, some volunteers were appointed in Bengal last year and the revenue has increased. I would like to know from the Minister whether Government have any proposals to give these volunteers permanent job security.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : There were 849 volunteer employees. Sir, these employees do not come under the category of Railway staff. They are purely volunteers employed at Rs. 8/- a day and initially it was found to be beneficial. Once again, we have to review the entire situation from the point of this beneficial aspect also.

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSI RAM : The ticket checkers of the Railways do not check properly the persons travelling without ticket. It is because of some *goonda* type of people travelling in the trains, who intimidate and threaten to beat the ticket checking staff. Being afraid of them, they do not carry out a proper check. They are afraid that if they perform their duties honestly, they will be beaten up. In these circumstances, they take some money from these *goondas* and let them

go. It is beneficial to them and they also escape being beaten up. Government should make proper arrangements for their security. Government should do their best in this regard but even after that if they fail in their duties, they should be punished.

Similarly, we notice that the ticket collectors at the gates do not ask for ticket from the passengers and the passengers just go out. If someone gives his ticket to the collector, it is all right, otherwise no one asks him for it.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether his attention has been drawn to these things and what action is being taken by him in regard thereto.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : The Hon. Member is absolutely right. Such instances have been brought to our notice from time to time and for controlling such acts, it is necessary that the G. R. P. becomes more active. With this objective, our Hon. Minister, Shri Bansi Lal, has addressed a letter to the Chief Minister of various States. Their co-operation and that of the State Administrations is called for in this behalf and the suggestions for raising the strength of the R. P. F. are also under consideration of the Ministry.

SHRIMATI SUNDERWATI NAVAL PRABHAKAR : It has often been observed that the passengers travelling without tickets occupy the seats in the ladies compartments and the ladies have to face considerable difficulty on that account. I would like to know what steps are being taken to ensure ladies security in the ladies compartments.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You put a question on ticketless travel only and not on any other issue.

Now next question No. 599 Shri C. P. Thakur.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUNDERWATI NAVAL PRABHAKAR : Hon. Dy. Speaker, my question has not been answered. The ladies

compartments are always over-crowded. The Hon. Minister may please answer my question.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You had not put the question on ticketless travel. You had put some other question. Therefore, it cannot be answered. I have already ruled out your question. Please sit down.

Passenger Service between Digha and Patna Junction

*599. SHRI C. P. THAKUR : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rail line between Digha and Patna junction is being utilised for carrying goods; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to start a passenger service between Digha and Patna Junction to ease the traffic problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

SHRI C. P. THAKUR : There is a railway track between Patna railway junction and Digha which runs by the side of the secretariat, which is a very busy place. If you just add one passenger train in the morning hours or in the evening hours, it will greatly help in easing the traffic problems of these people.

My second supplementary is that the people of Bihar have got very little facilities to go to the South. If you just extend the Mahanagari Express to Patna Jn. and also the Ganga-Kaveri Express to Patna Jn., it will greatly facilitate people of Bihar who want to go to the South.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : The Patna-Digha line is an 8.3 Km. long siding, taking off from Patna station, which is at present open only to goods traffic, and not to passenger traffic. (Interruptions) This line is

not open to passenger traffic. It is open only to goods traffic; and developing passenger terminal facilities will again mean an additional outlay. Keeping in mind the number of passenger for this area, it is not considered appropriate as yet to open this to passenger traffic, or to invest any more in passenger terminal facilities. Because there is not much population adjoining this siding, it is very easy to use buses and rickshaws for travel in this area.

SHRI C. P. THAKUR : My second supplementary was regarding the extension of Mahanagari Express and the Ganga-Kaveri Express to Patna.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : That suggestion will be kept in mind.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH : The Patna-Digha railway line is 7 or 8 kilometer long. Survey, etc, for the construction of a bridge over the Ganga, for extension of this line has been completed. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether it is proposed to be included in the Seventh plan.

[English]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : This is not relevant to this question.

[Translation]

Scheme for moral education

*600. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether with a view to raise the national character, there is any scheme in the Seventh Five Year Plan to devote special attention to moral education in the educational curriculum;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the shape in which it would be implemented; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION